

**SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF MONTANA**

Brad Johnson
Secretary of State



Montana State Capitol
PO Box 202801
Helena, MT 59620-2801

2008 ELECTION CALENDAR

(all dates 2008 unless otherwise noted; includes deadlines from the Commissioner of Political Practices)

- June 20, 2007 **NEW:** First day sample ballot issue petitions for the 2008 GENERAL election, except for initiative referenda, may be circulated for signatures (not more than 1 year prior to the final date for filing the signed petitions with the county election administrators) **13-27-202(1)**
- Sept. 28, 2007 Deadline for submitting initiative referendum petitions for the 2008 GENERAL election to election administrators for certification of signatures; last day for withdrawal of referendum petition signatures (submission no later than 4 weeks before the final date for filing the referendum petitions in Secretary of State's office) **13-27-301**
- Oct. 18, 2007 First day signatures on approved constitutional and statutory initiative petitions for the 2008 GENERAL election may be submitted to election administrators (no sooner than 9 months before final date of filing with the Secretary of State's office) **13-27-301**
- Oct. 26, 2007 Deadline for county election administrator to file complete initiative referendum petitions for the 2008 GENERAL election in Secretary of State's office (filed no later than six months after adjournment of the legislature which passed the act) **Article III Section 5, Montana Constitution**

January 1 through January 31

Period for election administrators to mail an address confirmation form to each elector who has requested an absentee ballot for subsequent elections. The address confirmation form mailed in January is for elections to be held between February 1 following the mailing through July of the same year. **13-13-212**

- January 22 First day for candidates to file with Secretary of State or election administrator, as applicable (no sooner than 135 days before election). **NEW:** Candidates who file with the Secretary of State (other than presidential, independent, non-qualified party and write-in candidates) now have the option to file for office online. **13-10-201(3) and (6)**
- February 5 **NEW:** Republican Party Presidential Preference Caucus. See <http://www.mtgop.org/> for information.
- February 22 Last day the county governing body may change boundaries of precincts (not within 100 days before primary). Election administrator certifies changes and submits map to Secretary of State. **13-1-204(2), 13-3-102(1)**

Within 3 days

Deadline for the county governing body to certify all changes to the election administrator (3 days or less after the change is made) **13-3-102(2)**

- March 13 Deadline for presidential petitions for nomination to be turned into county election administrator(s) for verification (at least one week before final filing deadline) **13-10-405**

Petition to form a new political party due at election administrators (at least one week before final filing deadline) **13-10-601**

NEW: Deadline for nomination petitions from independent and minor party candidates for partisan elections to be submitted to county election administrators for verification of signatures (at least one week before filing deadline). Individuals cannot file for nonpartisan offices as independent or minor party candidates. **13-10-503 and 504**

March 20

5:00 p.m. Last day and time for candidates to file with Secretary of State or election administrator, as applicable (no later than 75 days before primary election). **NEW:** Candidates who file with the Secretary of State (other than presidential, independent, non-qualified party, and write-in candidates) have the option to file for office online. **13-10-201(3) and (6)**

NEW: Deadline for county election administrators to file verified nomination petitions from state-certified independent or minor party candidates for partisan elections with the Secretary of State. Individuals cannot file for nonpartisan offices as independent or minor party candidates. **13-10-201(6), 13-10-503**

Deadline for county election administrators to certify presidential petitions for nomination to Secretary of State **13-10-201(6) and 405**

Last day for candidates to withdraw from the primary election (not later than 75 days before a primary election) **13-10-325**

Beginning of period for making application for absentee ballot for primary election (75 days before election). United States electors, defined in Title 13, Chapter 21, MCA, are not subject to an earliest date to request an absentee ballot. **NEW:** A person who holds a power of attorney from an absent uniformed services elector may apply for an absentee ballot for that election on behalf of the uniformed services elector. The applicant shall provide a copy of the power of attorney authorizing the request for an absentee ballot along with the application. **13-13-211, 13-21-210**

Deadline for county election administrators to forward to the Secretary of State all verified petitions to create a new political party (at least 75 days before the date of the primary) **13-10-601**

After March 20

An election administrator of a political subdivision may determine that a nonpartisan primary election need not be held if the number of candidates for an office exceeds three times the number to be elected to that office in no more than one-half of the offices on the ballot and the number of candidates in excess of three times the number to be elected is not more than one for any office on the ballot. **13-14-115**

March 20 through March 27

Period for each election administrator to certify to the Commissioner of Political Practices the names of all *Statewide and State District candidates* in their county who have complied with MCA Title 13, chapters 35 and 37. (Use certification form letters provided by the Commissioner's office.) **13-37-126(3)**

March 20 through March 28

Period for Secretary of State to certify names and designation of candidates to election administrators (not more than 75 days and not less than 67 days before the date of the primary election) **13-10-208(1)**

March 20 through April 1

Period for each election administrator to certify to the Commissioner of Political Practices the names of all *County candidates* in their county who have complied with MCA Title 13, chapters 35 and 37. (Use certification form letters provided by the Commissioner's office.) **13-37-126(3)**

March 28

Last day for the Commissioner of Political Practices to notify the Secretary of State of the names of all *Statewide and State District candidates* who have complied with MCA Title 13, chapters 35 and 37 by properly filing all required statements/reports with the Commissioner of Political Practices and their county election administrator. **13-37-126(3)**

March 28 through April 2

Period for election administrator to certify names and designation of candidates and any ballot issues and have the official ballots prepared (not more than 67 days and not less than 62 days before the date of the primary election) **13-10-208(2), 13-10-209**

An election administrator does not need to prepare a primary ballot for a political party if the party does not have candidates for more than half of the offices to appear on the ballot; or no more than one candidate files for nomination by that party for any of the offices to appear on the ballot **13-10-209(2)**

March 30 Last day governing body may, by resolution, determine that a nonpartisan primary election must be held, if election administrator determines election need not be held (not more than 10 days after the close of filing by candidates) **13-14-115**

Election administrator completes register of candidates book, if used **13-10-205, 13-14-114**

April 2 Last day for the Commissioner of Political Practices to certify to election administrators for their ballots the names of *County candidates* who have complied with MCA Title 13, chapters 35 and 37. **13-37-126(3)**

Starting not earlier than April 7

Notice of close of primary election regular registration, and option for late registration, is published on radio or television as provided in 2-3-105 through 2-3-107 or in a newspaper three times in the 4 weeks preceding the close of registration. The notice provisions are fulfilled upon the third publication. **13-2-301**

April 21 Deadline for county central committees (of the political parties eligible to nominate candidates in the primary) to submit to the county election administrator lists of qualified registered electors for appointment as election judges (at least 45 days before the primary election) **13-4-102**

April 25 **NEW:** 5 p.m. Deadline for write-in candidates to file a declaration of intent for the primary election (filed no later than 5 p.m. on the 10th day before May 5, the first date absentee ballots are available for voting). **13-10-211**

Note: If there are declared candidates for a position, a write-in candidate running for an office must file a declaration and pay a filing fee at the time of filing, in order for the candidate's write-in votes to be counted. However, if an election is held and a write-in candidate is qualified for and seeks the office for which the candidate is written in, a write-in candidate running for an office for which no candidate has filed does not have to file a declaration in order for the candidate's write-in votes to be counted. **13-10-211**

May 2 Deadline for county governing body to designate the polling place for each precinct and to appoint election judges for each precinct **13-3-105(1), 13-4-101**

May 5 Regular voter registration for primary election closes (30 days before election). An application for voter registration properly executed and postmarked on or before the day regular registration is closed must be accepted as a regular registration for 3 days after regular registration is closed. **13-2-301**

Date by which primary election absentee ballots must be printed. **NEW:** First date absentee ballots may be provided to electors, except that an absentee ballot requested by a United States elector may be sent to the elector as soon as the ballot is printed. **13-13-205**

NEW: Deadline for an application for registration or application for a regular absentee ballot from a United States Elector to be received by the appropriate county election administrator (not less than 30 days before the election.) An application for registration or for a regular absentee ballot that is received less than 30 days before the date of an election must be processed for the next election. A United States elector who misses the deadline may use the Federal Write-In Absentee ballot and optional addendum in order to register and/or vote. **13-21-205, 206, and 210**

NEW: Electors on the permanent absentee list must be sent ballots automatically, as long as they have completed, signed, and returned a permanent absentee elector confirmation form sent to them by the county election administrator in January and July each year. The address confirmation form mailed in January is for elections to be held between February 1 following the mailing through July of the same year. **13-13-212(4)**

Start of period during which the election administrator shall publicly test and certify that the system used in an election is performing properly (no more than 30 days prior to an election in which a voting system is used) **13-17-212**

Before election

Election judges are instructed by election administrators. All certificates of completion of training expire 30 days before the primary election in even-numbered years. **13-4-203**

Immediately after close of regular registration

Secretary of State shall certify the official statewide voter registration list **13-2-115**

May 6 Beginning of late registration. An elector may register or change the elector's voter registration information after the close of regular registration in 13-2-301 and vote in the election if the election administrator in the county where the elector resides receives and verifies the elector's voter registration information prior to the close of the polls on election day. A late registrant must vote in the county election administrator's office. Late registration is closed from noon to 5 p.m. on the day before the election. (If an elector has already been sent an absentee ballot for the election, the elector may change the elector's voter registration information only with respect to the next election.) **13-2-304**

May 24 through May 31

Period for county election administrator to publish on radio or television as provided in 2-3-105 through 2-3-107, or in a newspaper of general circulation in the county, a diagram showing the voting system and ballot arrangement (in newspaper only), a statement of the locations where voting systems are on public exhibition, and instructions on how to vote (not more than 10 or less than 3 days before an election at which a voting system will be used) **13-17-203**

May 24 through June 1

Period for county election administrator to publish in a newspaper of general circulation in the county a statement of the locations of precinct polling places (not more than 10 days or less than 2 days before an election). The election administrator shall include in the published notice the accessibility designation for each polling place according to the classification in 13-3-207. (Notice may also be given as provided in 2-3-105 through 2-3-107.) **NEW:** The option to designate a polling place as "technically inaccessible but usable" has been removed from law. **13-3-105(2) and 207**

May 30 After 5 p.m. -- beginning of period for qualified electors who are prevented from voting at the polls as a result of illness or health emergency, occurring between 5 p.m. of the Friday preceding the election and noon on election day, to request to vote by **special** absentee ballot **13-13-211(2) and 212(2)**

June 2 Noon -- last day and time for application to be made for absentee ballot **13-13-211(1)**

Noon -- last day and time for special voter registration by those United States electors, defined in Title 13, Chapter 21, MCA, returning to the electors' U.S. residence too late to register by May 5 regular registration deadline **13-21-203**

Noon. Election administrators shall close late registration at noon on the day before election day, and reopen late registration on election day. Any elector wishing to register after noon on the day before election day may do so by submitting a voter registration application at the county election administrator's office the day before election day or on election day during polling hours, and appearing at the county election office on election day in order to vote. **13-2-304 and 44.3.2015, Administrative Rules of Montana**

June 3 **PRIMARY NOMINATING ELECTION.** Post lists of registered electors at polling places. Deliver absentee ballots to election judges. **13-1-107(1), 13-2-115(3), 13-13-232**

NEW: Polling places having fewer than 400 electors must be open from noon to 8 p.m. All other polling places must be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. **13-1-106**

County election administrator or designee must conduct a random test and certification of 5% of voting systems, a minimum of one per county, on election day, to validate the accuracy of voted paper ballots with the voting system results **44.3.1713, Administrative Rules of Montana**

Noon -- for qualified electors who are prevented from voting at the polls as a result of illness or health emergency, occurring between 5 p.m. of the Friday preceding the election and noon on election day, to request to vote by **special** absentee ballot **13-13-211(2) and 212(2)**

8:00 p.m. -- End of late registration. An elector may register or change the elector's voter registration information after the close of regular registration in 13-2-301 and vote in the election if the election administrator in the county where the elector resides receives and verifies the elector's voter registration information prior to the close of the polls on election day. A late registrant must vote in the county election administrator's office. Late registration is closed from noon to 5 p.m. on the day before the election. (If an elector has already been sent an absentee ballot for the election, the elector may change the elector's voter registration information only with respect to the next election.) **13-2-304**

June 3 through June 9

NEW: Period during which the election administrator may open a package containing a precinct register to resolve questions concerning provisional ballots. **13-15-301**

June 4 through August 13

Period for each election administrator to certify to the Commissioner of Political Practices the names of all *nominated Statewide and State District and County candidates* who have complied with MCA Title 13, chapters 35 and 37 by properly filing all required statements/reports with their county election administrator. (Use certification form letters provided by the Commissioner's office.) **13-37-126(3)**

June 9 3:00 p.m. – Counting of provisional ballots, for which proof of registration or valid identification is received by mail after 5:00 p.m. the day after election day, may not begin prior to this date and time. (Proof of registration or required identification must be postmarked by election day or the day after election day, and must be verified by 3:00 p.m. on this date, in order to be counted.) Election officials or election workers shall notify each elector who cast a provisional ballot, by the most expedient means possible, whether or not the elector's vote was counted, and the reason(s) why or why not. **13-15-107 and 44.3.2114 and 2115, Administrative Rules of Montana**

3:00 p.m. – Deadline for county election administrator to receive Federal Write-in Absentee Ballots that were sent by United States electors by 8 p.m. on election day **13-21-206**

June 6 through June 10

County canvass completed (within 3 to 7 days after primary election) **13-15-401**

Within five days of official canvass (either county or state canvass, as applicable)

Deadline for candidates to initiate contest of primary election nomination (5 days or less after a candidate has been certified as nominated) **13-36-102(1)**

Deadline for unsuccessful primary candidate to apply for a recount (within 5 days after the canvass) **13-16-301**

Election administrators complete county register of nominations book, if used **13-10-205, 13-14-114, Directive**

Election administrators send certified canvass results to Secretary of State by certified mail **13-15-501, Directive**

June 20 Deadline for submitting constitutional and statutory initiative petitions for the 2008 GENERAL election to election administrator for certification of signatures; last day for withdrawal of signatures (no later than 4 weeks before filing deadline with the Secretary of State) **13-27-301**

Deadline for the county canvasses to be received by the Secretary of State. If the returns from all counties have not been received 3 days before the meeting of the board of state canvassers, the secretary of state shall immediately advise the election administrator of each delinquent county. **13-15-503**

June 23 State canvass complete (within 20 days after election or sooner if the returns are all received) **13-15-502**

Within 10 days of official canvass (either county or state canvass as applicable)

Deadline for write-in nominee to file a written declaration of acceptance (must also have received at least 5% of the total vote cast for the successful candidate for the same office at the last general election; comply with the provisions of 13-37-126, MCA; have paid the filing fee at the time of filing, unless indigent under 13-10-203 or if exempt from filing under 13-10-211(7), in which case the candidate shall pay the fee at the time of nomination) **13-10-203 and 204, 13-10-211, 13-37-126**

July 1 through July 31

Period for county election administrator to mail an address confirmation form to each elector who has requested an absentee ballot for subsequent elections. The address confirmation form mailed in July is for elections to be held between August 1 following the mailing through January of the succeeding year. **13-13-212(4)(b)**

July 15 Deadline for appointment of committee members by designated individuals for ballot issues (no later than 1 week prior to deadline for filing committee arguments) **13-27-403**

July 17 Secretary of State arranges with the Department of Administration by requisition for the printing and delivery of the voter information pamphlet for 2008 GENERAL election (at least 110 days before the election) **13-27-410**

July 18 Deadline for county election administrator to file complete constitutional and statutory initiative petitions for the 2008 GENERAL election in Secretary of State's office (third Friday of the fourth month before election) **13-27-104**

July 22 Committee arguments due to Secretary of State (no later than 105 days before election) **13-27-406**

Deadline for appointments by ballot issue committee members to fill vacancies (up until the deadline for filing arguments) **13-27-403(2)**

Secretary of State notifies ballot issue committee members by certified mail of deadlines (within 5 business days of appointment) **13-27-403**

July 24 Deadline for proponents and opponents who provide factual statements in their arguments to file supporting documents with the Secretary of State (within 2 business days of the date on which the arguments are required to be filed.) **13-27-409**

August 1 Rebuttal arguments due to the Secretary of State (no later than 10 days after the deadline for filing the original arguments) **13-27-407**

August 5 Deadline for proponents and opponents who provide factual statements in their rebuttals to file supporting documents with the Secretary of State (within 2 business days of the date on which the rebuttals are required to be filed.) **13-27-409**

August 11 Last day for candidates to withdraw from general election (no later than 85 days before a general election) **13-10-325**

August 13 Deadline for independent and minor party presidential petitions to be turned into county election administrators (at least 1 week before deadline for filing in the office of the Secretary of State) **13-10-504(2)**

- August 14 Last day for the Commissioner of Political Practices to notify the Secretary of State of the names of *nominated Statewide and State District candidates* who have complied with MCA Title 13, chapters 25 and 37. **13-37-126(3)**
- August 20 Deadline for county election administrators to certify independent and minor party presidential petitions to the Secretary of State (76 days prior to the date of the general election.) **13-10-504**
- August 21 Beginning of period for making application for general election absentee ballot (75 days before election). United States electors, defined in Title 13, Chapter 21, MCA, are not subject to an earliest date to request an absentee ballot. **NEW:** A person who holds a power of attorney from an absent uniformed services elector may apply for an absentee ballot for that election on behalf of the uniformed services elector. The applicant shall provide a copy of the power of attorney authorizing the request for an absentee ballot along with the application. **13-13-211 and 212, 13-21-210**
- Last day for Secretary of State to certify names of candidates and ballot issues to election administrators (75 days or more before election) **13-12-201**
- Recommended deadline for election administrators to certify names of candidates and ballot issues as shown in the official records of the election administrator's office **13-12-201, Directive**
- Starting not earlier than September 8*
- Notice of close of general election regular registration, and option for late registration, is published on radio or television as provided in 2-3-105 through 2-3-107 or in a newspaper three times in the 4 weeks preceding the close of registration. The notice provisions are fulfilled upon the third publication. **13-2-301**
- Sept. 19 Date by which federal general election absentee ballots must be printed (at least 45 days prior to election). **NEW:** Absentee ballots may not be provided to electors sooner than 30 days before the election, except that an absentee ballot requested by a United States elector may be sent to the elector as soon as the ballot is printed. **13-13-205**
- Last day for printer to deliver voter information pamphlets to counties (not later than 45 days before the election) **13-27-410(3)**
- Sept. 26 **NEW:** 5 p.m. Deadline for write-in candidates to file a declaration of intent for the general election (filed no later than 5 p.m. on the 10th day before October 6, the first date absentee ballots are available for voting) **13-10-211**
- If there are declared candidates for a position, a write-in candidate running for an office must file a declaration and pay a filing fee at the time of filing, in order for the candidate's write-in votes to be counted. However, if an election is held and a write-in candidate is qualified for and seeks the office for which the candidate is written in, a write-in candidate running for an office for which no candidate has filed does not have to file a declaration in order for the candidate's write-in votes to be counted. **13-10-211**
- October 6 Regular voter registration for general election closes (30 days before election). An application for voter registration properly executed and postmarked on or before the day regular registration is closed must be accepted as a regular registration for 3 days after regular registration is closed. **13-2-301**
- NEW:** First date absentee ballots may be provided to electors, except that an absentee ballot requested by a United States elector may be sent to the elector as soon as the ballot is printed. **13-13-205**
- NEW:** Deadline for an application for registration or application for a regular absentee ballot from a United States Elector to be received by the appropriate county election administrator (not less than 30 days before the election.) An application for registration or for a regular absentee ballot that is received less than 30 days before the date of an election must be processed for the next election. A United States elector who misses the deadline may use the Federal Write-In Absentee ballot and optional addendum in order to register and/or vote. **13-21-205, 206, and 210.**
- NEW:** Electors on the permanent absentee list must be sent ballots automatically, as long as they have completed, signed, and returned a permanent absentee elector confirmation form sent to them by the county election administrator in January and July each year. **13-13-212(4)**

NEW: Start of period during which the election administrator shall publicly test and certify that the system used in an election is performing properly (no more than 30 days prior to an election in which a voting system is used) **13-17-212**

Last day for election administrators to mail one copy of the voter information pamphlet to each registered voter in the county who is on the active voter list, except that two or more voters with the same mailing address and same last name may be counted as one voter (30 days before election) **13-27-410(4)**

Immediately after close of regular registration

Secretary of State shall certify the official statewide voter registration list **13-2-115**

October 7 Beginning of late registration. An elector may register or change the elector's voter registration information after the close of regular registration in 13-2-301 and vote in the election if the election administrator in the county where the elector resides receives and verifies the elector's voter registration information prior to the close of the polls on election day. A late registrant must vote in the county election administrator's office. Late registration is closed from noon to 5 p.m. on the day before the election. (If an elector has already been sent an absentee ballot for the election, the elector may change the elector's voter registration information only with respect to the next election.) **13-2-304**

October 25 through November 1

Period for county election administrator to publish on radio or television as provided in 2-3-105 through 2-3-107, or in a newspaper of general circulation in the county, a diagram showing the voting system and ballot arrangement (in newspaper only), a statement of the locations where voting systems are on public exhibition, and instructions on how to vote (not more than 10 or less than 3 days before an election at which a voting system will be used) **13-17-203**

October 25 through November 2

Period for county election administrator to publish in a newspaper of general circulation in the county a statement of the locations of precinct polling places (not more than 10 days or less than 2 days before an election). The election administrator shall include in the published notice the accessibility designation for each polling place according to the classification in 13-3-207. (Notice may also be given as provided in 2-3-105 through 2-3-107.) **NEW:** The option to designate a polling place as "technically inaccessible but usable" has been removed from law. **13-3-105(2) and 207**

October 31 After 5 p.m. -- beginning of period for qualified electors who are prevented from voting at the polls as a result of illness or health emergency, occurring between 5 p.m. of the Friday preceding the election and noon on election day, to request to vote by **special** absentee ballot **13-13-211(2) and 212(2)**

November 3 Noon -- last day and time for application to be made for absentee ballot **13-13-211(1)**

Noon -- last day and time for special voter registration by those United States electors, defined in Title 13, Chapter 21, MCA, returning to the electors' U.S. residence too late to register by October 6 regular registration deadline **13-21-203**

Noon. Election administrators shall close late registration at noon on the day before election day, and reopen late registration on election day. Any elector wishing to register after noon on the day before election day may do so by submitting a voter registration application at the county election administrator's office the day before election day or on election day during polling hours, and appearing at the county election office on election day in order to vote. **13-2-304 and 44.3.2015, Administrative Rules of Montana**

November 4 **GENERAL ELECTION.** Post lists of registered electors at polling places. Deliver absentee ballots to election judges. **13-1-104(1), 13-2-115(3), 13-13-232**

NEW: Polling places having fewer than 400 electors must be open from noon to 8 p.m. All other polling places must be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. **13-1-106**

County election administrator or designee must conduct a random test and certification of 5% of voting systems, a minimum of one per county, on election day, to validate the accuracy of voted paper ballots with the voting system results **44.3.1713, Administrative Rules of Montana**

Noon -- last day and time for persons unable to go to the polls as a result of an illness or health emergency, occurring between 5 p.m. of the Friday preceding the election and noon on election day, to apply for a **special** absentee ballot **13-13-211(2) and 212(2)**

8:00 p.m. -- End of late registration. An elector may register or change the elector's voter registration information after the close of regular registration in 13-2-301 and vote in the election if the election administrator in the county where the elector resides receives and verifies the elector's voter registration information prior to the close of the polls on election day. A late registrant must vote in the county election administrator's office. Late registration is closed from noon to 5 p.m. on the day before the election. (If an elector has already been sent an absentee ballot for the election, the elector may change the elector's voter registration information only with respect to the next election.) **13-2-304**

November 4 through November 10

NEW: Period during which the election administrator may open a package containing a precinct register to resolve questions concerning provisional ballots **13-15-301(2)**

November 5 through December 16

Period for election administrator to certify to the Commissioner of Political Practices the names of all *elected Statewide and State District candidates* who have complied with MCA Title 13, chapters 35 and 37 by properly filing all required statements/reports with their county election administrator. (Use certification form letters provided by the Commissioner's office.) **13-37-127(1)**

Period for the Commissioner of Political Practices to notify the Secretary of State of the names of all *elected Statewide and State District candidates* who have complied with MCA Title 13, chapters 35 and 37. **13-37-127(2)**

Period for election administrators to certify to the Commissioner of Political Practices the names of all *elected County candidates* who have complied with MCA Title 13, chapters 35 and 37. (Use certification form letters provided by the Commissioner's office.) **13-37-127(1)**

Period for the Commissioner of Political Practices to certify to election administrators the names of all *elected County candidates* who have complied with MCA Title 13, chapters 35 and 37 so certificates of election can be issued **13-37-127(2)**

November 10 3:00 p.m. – Counting of provisional ballots, for which proof of registration or valid identification is received by mail after 5:00 p.m. the day after election day, may not begin prior to this date and time. (Proof of registration or identification must be postmarked by election day or the day after election day, and must be verified by 3:00 p.m. on this date, in order to be counted.) Election officials or election workers shall notify each elector who cast a provisional ballot, by the most expedient means possible, whether or not the elector's vote was counted, and the reason(s) why or why not. **13-15-107 and 44.3.2114 and 2115, Administrative Rules of Montana**

3:00 p.m. – Deadline for county election administrator to receive Federal Write-in Absentee Ballots that were sent by United States electors by 8 p.m. on election day **13-21-206**

November 7 through November 11

County canvass completed (within 3 to 7 days after general election) **13-15-401**

Within five days of official canvass (either county or state canvass, as applicable)

Deadline for unsuccessful general election candidate to apply for a recount (within 5 days after the canvass) **13-16-301**

Election administrators send certified canvass results to Secretary of State by certified mail **13-15-501(2), Directive**

- November 21 Deadline for the county canvasses to be received by the Secretary of State. If the returns from all counties have not been received 3 days before the meeting of the board of state canvassers, the secretary of state shall immediately advise the election administrator of each delinquent county. **13-15-503**
- November 24 State canvass complete (within 20 days after election or sooner if the returns are all received) **13-15-502**

Within 10 days of official canvass (either county or state canvass, as applicable)

Deadline for successful general election write-in candidate to file a written declaration of acceptance (must also comply with the provisions of 13-37-225, MCA, and unless indigent under 13-10-203, pay the filing fee if not already required to pay it under 13-10-204 or 13-10-211. **13-10-203, 204, and 211, 13-15-111, 13-37-225**

General Information

1. Filing for Office: Section 13-10-201, MCA: In a partisan election, an elector may not file a declaration for more than one party. A candidate may not file for more than one public office. This does not include precinct committeemen and committeewomen candidates.

2. Filing fees: Section 13-10-202, MCA: Filing fees are as follows:
 - (1) for offices having an annual salary of \$2,500 or less and candidates for the legislature, \$15;
 - (2) for county offices having an annual salary of more than \$2,500, 0.5% of the total annual salary;
 - (3) for other offices having an annual salary of more than \$2,500, 1% of the total annual salary;
 - (4) for offices in which compensation is paid in fees, \$10;
 - (5) for officers of political parties, presidential electors, and officers who receive no salary or fees, no filing fee is required.

Section 13-10-204(2), MCA: All declared write-in candidates must pay applicable filing fee at the time of filing. Undeclared write-in candidates who are nominated or elected must pay the filing fee if they choose to accept the nomination or election.

3. Polls open: **NEW:** Section 13-1-106, MCA: Polls must open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., except that polling places having fewer than 400 registered electors must be open from at least noon to 8 p.m. (or until all registered electors in any precinct have voted).

4. Candidates: Information for filing reports of **campaign contributions and expenditures** will be provided by the Commissioner of Political Practices.

5. Voters: County Election Administrator or the Secretary of State at 1-888-884-8683 (VOTE).